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Withness -
Cholera -

Cholera Infantum.

Miss J. Withing

(1808)

1797
- 1797
- 1797

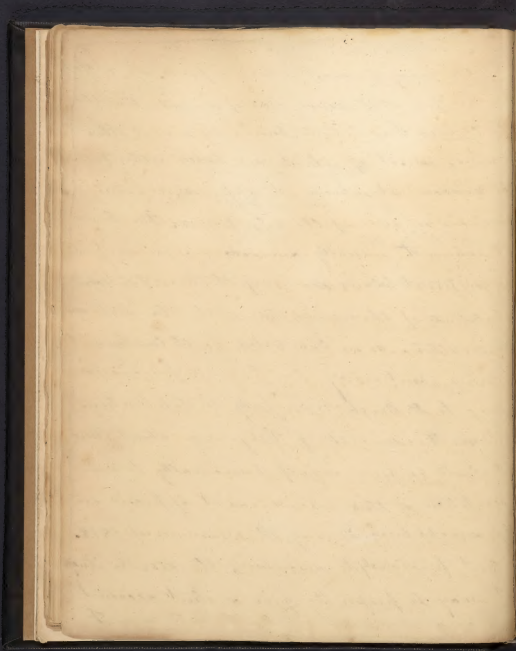
An Account of The Cholera
Infantum, as it appeared in
Fredericksburg Virginia. In
the Summer of 1818.

By Thomas T Withers
of Tauxem County,
Virginia

Of the many diseases, to which infants are subject, there are few that deserve more of our attention than the Cholera Infantum; known by several other names, most of which are taken either from the season at which it appears, or from some one or more of the symptoms. The time at which it usually ~~prevails~~ occurs; differs in different places according to the situation & latitude of them; together with the state of the weather. As in Charleston South Carolina it appears about May. In Philadelphia, according to Dr Rush, from July to September. And in Fredericksburg Virginia about June.

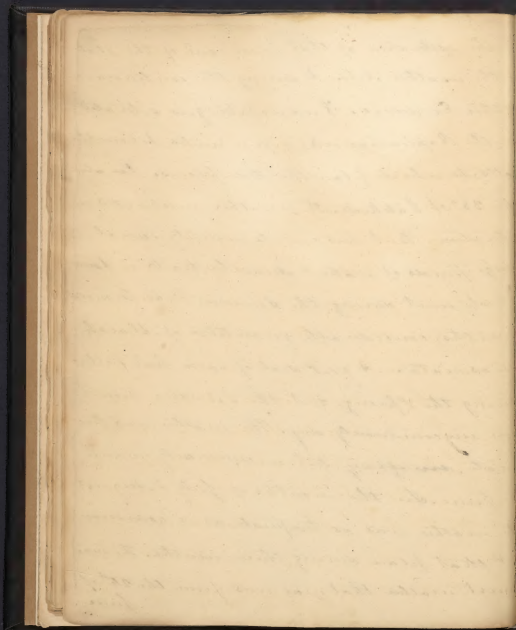
I shall confine myself principally, to a description of this disease, as it appeared in Fredericksburg, during the summer of 1808.

But previously to describing the disease itself it may be proper to give a short account of



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of the situation of that place, and of the state
of the weather; before & during the continuance
of this Epidemic. Fredericksburg, is situated
on the Rappahannock; a few miles below the
Falls, to which place the tide flows, I'm about
the 38° of Latitude. It is rather an elevated si-
tuation. But has in its vicinity several
large ponds of water & grassy tracts of land
which moist during the Summer & Autumnal
months, considerable quantities of Marsh
Miasmata. A good deal of rain had fallen
during the Spring, but the Summer months
were uncommonly dry. The weather was tem-
perate ~~disagreeable~~, but uncommonly warm
in June. In the months of July & August
the weather was as temperate, as is common
at that place during these months. The war-
mest weather that year was from the 26th of
June.



June to the 3rd of July during which time, the
 Mercury in the Thermometer ranged from
 84° to 95° of Fahrenheit. The children of that
 place had enjoyed very good health, until about
 the 1st of June, when the disease first
 made its appearance in a family of Negro
 children who lived near a pond of stagnant
 water, from which place it spread to several
 neighbouring families & in a short time
 became general. The disease came on some-
 times with a Diarrhoea, which continued some
 days without much apparent indisposition
 but fit more frequently came on with a
 violent shivering & febrile, The pulse was
 quick & frequent. The face was sometimes
 swelled. The fever which accompanied it was
 usually of the intermitting kind; & the ex-
 acerbations were discomfiting generally in the
 evening.

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evening, The matter discharged by vomiting,
was generally of a yellow, or green colour. The
stools were sometimes of the same colours, but
not infrequently mucus tinged with blood
was passed. Mucus was frequently dischar-
ged, the Eyes appeared languid & hollow, &
I was much surprised to see in any of the
patients, sleep with their eyes half closed.
It affected children from the first or second
week after birth until the fifth year, after
which few ~~are~~^{were} affected by it. It was much
influenced by the weather, cool weather ge-
nerally abating the ^{violence of the} symptoms, & hot wea-
ther aggravating them. It proved fatal
in a few cases in twenty-four hours, but
when it was of long continuance its fatal
termination was gradual & attended by
many

the first of the month of January
I received from you a letter
in which you informed me
that you had received from
the committee a copy of the
report of the committee on
the subject of the proposed
amendment to the constitution
of the United States. I have
just received the report and
have read it with much
interest. It contains many
valuable suggestions and
is well calculated to
bring about a better
understanding of the
subject. I am glad to
hear that you have
received it and hope
that you will find it
interesting and useful.

many cases, it is a disease, such as great
involvement of the body. Hickup, convulsions
I saw one. It is not in a single case of
necropsy, but in a single case of
necropsy, but in a single case of

Many cases have been a sign to this
disease, the principle of ^{which} is not a sign.

1. Many fruits are too rare to produce it.
2. I believe that it will only be a sign to
disease. 1. That this is even a sign to
the country, where there are greater
of it. 2. That it affects infants at
the birth who are able to eat them.
3. That supposes that the moderate use
of fruits rather leads to prevent than
in this disease.

II. It has been attributed to women, but to
this I object. 1. That we see the disease, in
all its force when the time at which women
must



most frequently produces diseases 2^d It is
very improbable, that they would produce
an annual disease 3^d That if it be occasion-
ed by worms such medicinal medicine as would
be proper for its cure but we find it exists
even the most powerful of them, & lastly
no worms are found in the intestines of those
who have died of it upon dissection.

III It has been attributed to dentition But I
deny this being the cause from its occurring
in Infants before the time at which they usu-
ally begin to cut teeth 4th From its occurring
at stated times & being influenced by the
state of the weather. whereas dentition occurs
independently of the time or season of the
year

IV It has been attributed to measles & such
But this cannot be the cause as it affects
all



scapes of that time.

V I have supposed it to be a modification of
the Remitting Fever of adults. I am disposed
to admit this claim on ~~from~~ the following grounds. 1st I have been attended with bilious
discharges 2^d I have the Remittent &
Evacuations of the fever, that accompanied
A. 3^d I have the same Interval at which it
occurs being nearly the same, as that at which
the Remitting Fever appears in adults. In
the month of August the results of the
family of Stigars, in which I mentioned
the disease as first appearing, were affected
with the Remitting fever. In this family
both diseases were more violent, than in any
other; which I have attributed to their being near
large ponds of water, which I consider as being
the remote cause of both diseases. 4th

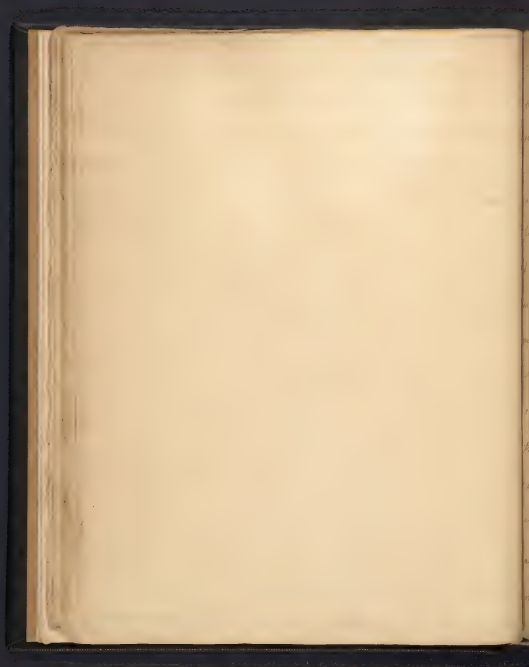
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Lithon's & Rush accounts were later & later
for its appearing earlier in that dress; it was
Rumitting fever in details. He supposes, that
the considerations of evidence, are more or less
- sed from us, to be acted on by the
causes; that produce this disease.

I shall now mention the remedies that are
employed to cure this disease. The first
cure was to evacuate the bile from the
& intestines. For this purpose a dose of the
- gelable Purge was preferred. which in
cases was repeated several times, & in other
single one was proved sufficient. The next
thing that was done, was to keep the bowels
open by means of some laxative medicine
Stomach Castor Oil, Sanguisina Calomel &c.
some cases when the disease had continued
for sometime & where it was supposed the

the following after had already been thrown
off, the remaining time was laid aside
& recourse was had to Opium, & Potatoes
baked, with a few drops of Laud^m was found
to much assist during the pain which in
some cases was very considerable. R. Rhus
must tea was also useful. But the com-
bination of Opium, Calomel & Rhus as re-
commended by Dr. Miller & which bears this
name was generally inferior. with these re-
medies assisted by some others which I shall
mention the disease frequently yielded in
one or two days. I sometimes of different
kinds were used such as, Waller Tea, Green
Tea &c. but the best & in my opinion
the best was the S. S. S. or Elm bark which
was in great abundance in the neigh-
bourhood.



- have been at that place. I found full of the
 bark boiled in a great quantity of water made an
 excellent emollient. I was obliged to stretch
 in a decoction of the bark & the slippery elm
 with a few drops of Turpentine was very
 efficacious in relieving the pain. As soon
 as the more violent symptoms of the dis-
 ease were removed I used Ipecacuanha in
 decoction was used. I used decoction of Bark
 for the hemorrhoids which returned. In return on
 the stomach was of great service. An infusion
 of Quinine with Camomile was an
 excellent restorative. I have not men-
 tioned Hemorrhoids as a new disease. This
 disease, it seldom being so violent as to
 require it, with the exception of a few of
 the last cases that made their appearance.



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There ~~was~~ were many other remedies employed as
the Black berry root, the Crow foot boiled in
milk &c. & with standing the proper admi-
nistration of these remedies, aided by the greatest
attention of the physicians & the patients
friends, they all sometimes failed. Precise
& Country air may be classed amongst the
remedies that were used for this disease &
were more attended with greater success
& considerable number of children were
carried into the country by the advice of
the Physicians, very few of whom reco-
vered of this disease. Fortunately few fell
victims to this disease, It began to abate
about the middle of July & by the middle
of the first of August had entirely dis-
appeared

- appeared, the weather was much more ¹¹
temperate, during the last of July & the
first of August; than it had been in June.
The Cholera Infantum, was followed by
the Remitting Bilious Fever, which was
much more malignant than on for-
mer years. —

Cholera Infantum

By William S. J.
of Calverton
Virginia

the weather was much more
pleasant during the last of July & the
1st of August than it had been for
a while but on the 2nd of August
the weather became very warm and
the wind was from the south
and the rain was very much
increased.